REVIEWS.

LA SUTURE INTESTINALE. HISTOIRE DES DIFFÉRENTS PRÉCEDES D'ENTERORRAPHIE. Par FÉLIX TERRIER, Professeur de Médecine Opératoire a la faculté de médecine, et MARCEL BAUDOUIN, Préparateur du cours de médecine opératoire a la faculté. Paris: Institut de Bibliographie Scientifique.
SUTURE OF THE INTESTINE. HISTORY OF THE DIFFERENT METHODS OF ENTERORRHAPHY.

THE book before us is of extreme interest to all who operate within the abdomen and to all who care for the history of surgical effort. It is intended to be a book of reference, and in it is given the history of the numerous operations for suturing the intestines, the operations being arranged according to the dates of introduction. The work contains over 400 pages, and is illustrated by 587 cuts, most of which are excellent. The indices are admirable, a merit which is not common in French books and which is extremely uncommon in the treatises of our German confrères. The authors have succeeded in producing a most valuable book, a book which is a complete study of intestinal sutures, their origins, their uses, their faults, and the details of their application.

Surely, in no department of human effort, has more energy, patience, and ingenuity been displayed than in the devising of intestinal sutures. To this subject many of the greatest masters of surgery have devoted their best talents, but they have not been alone in invention. Eccentrics with grotesque ideas; whimsical geniuses with fanciful notions; those whose only thought was to benefit man; those whose chief hope was to benefit themselves; seekers of fame; hunters of notoriety; searchers for gold; mechanicians who regarded tissues as so much wood or tin, and forgot that they were living and possessed of antipathies, weaknesses, and powers of reaction, have all had a try. From such heterogeneous influences have come scores of sutures, a few clear-cut principles, some very useful procedures, but not as yet the ideal method. Many of the methods described in this book are, of course, useless and obsolete, and to read of them is to feel like Huckleberry Finn when he read the *Pilgrim's Progress* and said the "facts" were "interesting but tough." It is curious to note how often a single method may die and be rediscovered. The use of collapsible rubber bags or cylinders to support the intestine during suturing has been discovered six times. Some methods crop up over and over again, being disinterred by some enthusiast almost as soon as the funeral obsequies are over. Treves recently commented on this curious fact. The temptation is strong to apply to some of these "busy idlers," as Michael Foster might call them, the words used by Rica in Montesquieu's *Persian Tales:* "If a man has nothing new to say why can't he be quiet. Why should we be troubled with these useless repetitions." The book of Terrier and Baudouin will render such rediscoveries less justifiable than was formerly the case.

The authors in considering the evolution of enterorrhaphy make fourteen periods, beginning with the Hindoos. The suture was suggested in the Indian Vedas. In these remarkable collections it was said that in a wound of the intestine a large beetle should be laid upon the wound in such a manner that its mandibles would fix upon the edges and close the wound. The body should then be twisted from the head. The Arabian surgeons also used "ces véritable serre-fines de nature animale." Albucasis describes the method, and, according to Terrier and Baudouin, certain beetles are still used for this purpose among the natives of Algeria. Celsus mentions suture of the large gut, but does not explain how to do it. Galen sutured the large gut. Roger, of Parma, first used artificial supports. He was professor of surgery in Salerno about 1265, and sutured the gut over a "canula" of elder wood. This plan of Roger has led to the employment of numerous other substances as artificial supports: the calf trachea of the Four Masters; dried intestine; the tallow candle of Scarpa; the gelatin tube of Watson; the varnished cord of Sabatier and Chopart; the bone plates of Senn; the bone bobbin of Mayo Robson; the potato plates of Dawbarn; the catgut rings of Abbe; the metal button of Murphy, etc.

The Four Masters lived in Paris at the end of the thirteenth century. But little is known of them. It is believed that they were four charitable men, who were drawn together by a common purpose, who lived together, and who practised only among the poor. It has usually been said that their names are unknown. Terrier and Baudouin say that their names were Archimateus, Petrosellus, Platearius, and Ferrarius. The Four Masters thought that the effort should be to bring the cut surfaces into direct contact, and in order to do this they sutured the gut over the trachea of an animal placed within. We find that the method of the Four Masters was revived and successfully applied by Duverger, of Maubeuge, in 1745. In the eighteenth century William of Salicet advised the use of the glover's suture for oblique and longitudinal wounds. The picture given of the glover's suture (Fig. 5) is the one usually given. As a matter of fact, two stitches are frequently confounded. The cut shows the ordinary continuous or seamstress stitch, which will invert the edges. The glover's or herring-bone suture will not invert the edges, and it is not probable that William of Salicet inverted the edges. Palfyn introduced a method which was long very popular. He was born in Ghent, and was a teacher of surgery in Flanders early in the eighteenth century. He believed that it was useless to sew up the bowel, as it would not unite, and suggested that the proper plan was to try to obtain adhesion to adjacent parts. Poland says he advised that a single thread be passed through each edge of the wound in the bowel, that the ends be gathered together and brought out of the abdomen, and after the bowel had been drawn close to the abdominal wall the threads be fastened to the skin by plaster.

Mr. Poland has insisted that Palfyn did not stitch the bowel to the belly wall (see Ashhurst's *International Encyclopædia of Surgery*). Terrier and Baudouin disagree with Poland, and claim that he stitched the cut bowel to the belly wall. La Peyronie modified Palfyn's method so as to apply it to complete transverse divisions. He passed the thread through the mesentery and pulled the bowel against the parietal peritoneum. John Bell advocated Palfyn's method and opposed sutures. In his discourse on wounds he claimed that suturing as advocated by

Benjamin Bell must cause gangrene. Ledran (1768) advocated treating a wound of the intestine by the passage of a number of interrupted sutures, gathering the ends together, twisting them into a cord, and bringing the cord out of the wound. The suture of Ledran applies the same principle as the suture of Palfyn. Sir Astley Cooper claimed that a small wound should be treated by pinching up the opening and fastening a thread around it. Travers used this method, but advocated suturing for large wounds, and thought that the ends of the ligature should be cut off. These old methods were occasionally, though rarely, successful. In 1822, Jobert suggested a new method for treating complete division. He dissected the mesentery from each end for a short distance, inverted the edges of the larger portion, inserted the smaller portion into it, and fastened it with sutures which entered into the lumen of the bowel. He first brought out the ends as did Ledran, but gave this up in favor of interrupted sutures. He laid down the principle that peritoneum should be brought into contact with peritoneum. Lembert, in 1826, devised the famous stitch which goes by his name, and which effects invagination of the serous surfaces, but does not enter into the lumen of the bowel, a stitch which is constantly used to-day, but in applying which we remember the advice of Halsted, and catch up the tough submucous coat. In spite of centuries of study and experience, or possibly because of unfortunate experience, at the time of our Civil War most surgeons treated intestinal wounds simply by the "do-nothing" system of giving opium. They stood by with folded hands and let the patient die. Guthrie opposed inaction, Gross advocated interference; but Gross and Guthrie were in a small minority. The great discovery of Lord Lister altered all our views and revolutionized all our methods. Surgeons awoke to the real facts and to the great possibilities of the future. Inaction has given way to radical interference and many cases are saved. America has had her full part in this advance, and the authors of this book do ample justice to Abbe, Brokaw, Ashton, Bodine, Downes, Laplace, J. Shelton Horsley, Briggs, McGraw, Dawbarn, Cushing, Matas, Mudd, and Weir, the magnificent achievements of Nicholas Senn and the noteworthy and valuable studies of Halsted and of Murphy. We do not think that the authors have fully appreciated the mine of information contained in *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion.* They have not mentioned the essay of T. Smith, of St. Croix, an essay which did much to discredit the suture of Palfyn, so strongly advocated by John Bell. Smith experimented on dogs, and found that operations performed as Bell advised were invariably followed by fecal extravasation and death. It is very difficult to see how the authors of this otherwise complete treatise have overlooked the work of the elder Gross. He studied this subject all his life. He made many experiments. He wrote several papers upon it. His first contribution to surgical literature was on enterorrhaphy. In this he reported fourteen operations on dogs, only one of which was fatal. His last paper, written over fifty years later, was on the same subject. For years he was one of the few who insisted that a wound of the intestine should in every case be sutured by an inversion stitch. He was a pioneer, and his great work should be set forth at length.

In closing this interesting and valuable book, we can say that Eng-

lish and American surgeons may well be proud of the part played by their countrymen in this attractive and important department of surgery.
J. C. DA C.

THE RISE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIQUEFACTION OF GASES. By WILLETT L. HARDIN, Ph.D., Harrison Senior Fellow in Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania. New York: Macmillan Company, 1899.

A GREAT deal of popular interest has been excited by the recent scientific studies regarding the liquefaction of gases, and the subject has become one of immense promise in practical directions, since means have been devised for producing in liquid form gases of various sorts, and particularly for making liquid air upon a commercial scale. The advances is this branch of practical physics have followed each other with almost startling rapidity, so that it is scarcely possible as yet to form an opinion as to the ultimate uses to which liquefied gases may be devoted. The latter matter is one of intense interest to the medical profession, on account of the possibilities in various medical directions as well as from the fact that prominent characters in the history of medicine have also been associated with the history of this branch of physics. The well-known name of van Helmont is met with as one of the first to suggest the possibility of gaseous substances becoming liquefied, and it was he who first discovered the proper distinctions between gases and vapors. The more recent history of the subject, of course, embraces the names of physicists only.

Among the uses that have been suggested for liquefied air are certain adaptations to ventilation, and condensed air has been used sometimes to great advantage in various building operations, notably in caissons and tunnels. The possibility of very largely increasing this advantage by the use of liquefied air naturally suggested itself when this substance was found to be producible on a large scale. Thus far, however, this use of the liquid has not been actually carried out, and the suggestion remains as merely one of probable usefulness. Another possibility connected with ventilation is that of using the liquefied air for the purpose of cooling the atmosphere of sick-rooms or dwelling-rooms. There is, of course, the absorption of a very large quantity of heat in the expansion of a comparatively small amount of liquefied air; and if some means can be devised by which the substance can be properly conveyed, and can be exposed for evaporation, there is little doubt that an appreciable cooling influence will be exerted at the same time that a supply of pure air is furnished to the room in which the liquid is exposed. Unfortunately, up to the present time no useful method of practically carrying out this possible application of liquefied air has been devised, but there can be little doubt that the means will be found when the handling and transportation of the substance are somewhat more thoroughly understood.

A possible use that is of particular interest to physicians is that connected with disinfection, and the author refers to the experiments of Cohn, Melsens, Pictet and Yung, Coleman and McKendrick, and Pictet, all of whom have studied the effect of extreme cold or of liquefied gaseous substances upon various forms of animal life. The results of these investigations, however, do not give ground for much hope that liquefied air will serve a definite purpose as a disinfectant or germicide. Curiously enough, the author, though connected with the University of Pennsylvania, does not refer to the experiments conducted in the same university by Dr. Ravenel.[1] The latter investigator found that the spores of anthrax bacilli and other organisms, either in spore form or in the mature condition, resisted the action of the extreme cold of liquefied air beyond expectation. These experiments, however, consisted merely in the exposure of organisms in bulk to the direct action of the liquefied air in its liquid form. It is not impossible that the liquefied air may be indirectly useful by furnishing any places in which rapid oxidation is desirable with a large quantity of oxygen in a condensed form—in other words, it is probable that thorough "airing" may be secured for packages or for solid substances as well as infected liquid masses, such as cannot be fully exposed over a large surface. Investigations in this direction have not as yet been made.

The little book under review is presented in an interesting and popular form, and will be useful as a reference book for readers who have not a large knowledge of physics. A. S.

MATERIA MEDICA, THERAPEUTICS, MEDICAL PHARMACY, PRESCRIPTION WRITING, AND MEDICAL LATIN. BY WILLIAM SCHLEIF, Ph.G., M.D. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co., 1899.

SMALL books on therapeutics and materia medica are exceedingly important for the student and for the general practitioner. The rapid increase in the number of medicinal preparations, most of them of synthetic nature, requires a constant repetition of new editions, and small works have, therefore, some advantage over the larger and perhaps more scientific ones. The book under review is written by one who has had experience in the teaching of pharmacy as well as therapeutics, and his presentation of the subject is correspondingly satisfactory. The book does not pretend to enter largely into the scientific aspect of therapeutics, but in a practical way offers the information usually sought for by students and physicians in books of this sort. The chapters on Prescription Writing, Antidotes, Incompatibilities, etc., are very useful for the student, and the chapter on Dietetics is useful, though it is difficult to treat such a subject adequately in the limited space here assigned. The author classifies drugs in various groups somewhat after the manner of H. C. Wood. While this method has not been generally followed in similar books in recent years, and though there are some quite proper objections to such a classification, it has advantages in the way of bringing under the student's notice drugs having a similar action in a way that could not be accomplished were the alphabetical arrangement of remedies followed. We should have been pleased to find some mention at least of some of the newer preparations which have not as yet received the official sanction of the profession, but which are used very largely by physicians. A. S.

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[1] Medical News, June 10, 1899.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY. May, 1899, vol. xx.

MUCH of the advance in science, especially in its details, has undoubtedly been due to the formation of particular societies for the propagation of its categorical parts. Meetings with discussions of questions demonstrate how little even the oldest and wisest know, and encourage original work and further researches in the literature. Moreover, nothing raises the standard of such societies so much as the publication of their proceedings. Many things men utter as facts which they would hesitate to put over their names in print, very probably on the principle of the old tent-maker:

> The Moving Finger writes; and having writ
> Moves on: nor all your Piety nor Wit
> Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line
> Nor all your Tears wash out one Word of it.

We are, consequently, always glad to notice the publication of such volumes as the *Transactions of the American Microscopical Society*. In this the twentieth volume there are several subjects distinctly medical in character, and, though not startling in their originality, we wish to mention some of them. The article by Archibald Ward, on "The Persistence of Bacteria in the Milk-ducts of the Cow's Udder," is of much interest to the bacteriologist. His conclusions affirm that bacteria invade not only the teats, but ascend to the ramifications of the ducts in the udders, and remain there in an active state. Dr. Frank Parker, in his "Micrometry of the Red Blood-corpuscle," seems to draw an unwarranted, hasty conclusion. He informs us that Gram states the red corpuscles of the Northern races to be larger than those of the Southern, from measurements made on Norwegians, Germans, and Italians, which he (Parker) denies, from measurements on five persons —two from the United States, one from Italy, one from Finland, and an Esquimaux, though the diameter of the Esquimaux's was the largest. It is difficult to understand the drift of Dr. Young's article on "Medical Microscopy." It contains nothing new, and its suggestions are unintelligible or false. Some of the articles on other subjects are of a very high standard, among which may be mentioned particularly Frederic Clements' "Contributions to the Histogenesis of the Caryophyllales" and Wolcott's article "On the North American Species of the Genus Atax." J. W.

THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL ANNUAL AND PRACTITIONERS' INDEX. A Work of Reference for Medical Practitioners. Seventeenth year. New York: E. B. Treat & Co., 1899.

CERTAINLY the medical profession should be widely if not well read. The facilities that are offered by various ingenuous and enterprising publishers for acquiring a maximum knowledge of medical literature with a minimum of effort ought to enable every man to know all that is going on in his profession. The present book is put together according to a definite and a not illy conceived plan. It contains a number of good special articles, particularly the one on practical X-ray work by Morris Wolfenden. The medical articles are arranged alphabetically according to the disease. Some of them are based upon a single abstract; others upon a number of papers that have appeared in different journals; the latter acquiring by their collective and comparative character an element of authority and independence that is usually lacking in such publications. Some very fair plates of pathogenic bacteria are inserted in the back of the book, and a series of notes on American "Legal Decisions," by W. A. Purrington, is, in our opinion, one of the most valuable features of the book. Altogether, for the purpose of reference to the literature of the past two years, the book is exceedingly handy and valuable. As this is an annual, it seems to us that it would be more desirable to limit the range of time during which articles that are used for abstracts may appear rather more narrowly than has been done. References to literature as far back as 1896 are by no means uncommon, and might as well have been included in an earlier edition of the book. J. S.

A TEXT-BOOK OF MENTAL DISEASES. By BEVAN LEWIS, L.R.C.P. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.). Second edition. Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son & Co.

OF late years we have come to expect of a text-book of any pretensions an exposition of the anatomy and physiology of the subject under consideration. In but few text-books of nervous diseases is this necessary portion of the work neglected. The text-book of insanity that takes cognizance of the existence of a nerve-cell, its arrangement in the cortex, its comparative anatomy, or its pathological states is, however, the rare exception. This work is the exception, and such a beginning augurs well for the future in this field.

It has not been so long since we were accustomed to hear it taught dogmatically that intellectual operations were confined exclusively to the frontal lobes. The experiments of Ferrier in removing these areas in the monkey with a loss of the power of attention and interest has not been confirmed in the German laboratories. Flechsig has shown us, in a broader spirit, that the association areas in the parietal lobe are much concerned in these functions. The tendency at present is not to restrict the intellectual processes to any cortical tissue, either cerebral or cerebellar. These lessons, if they teach us anything, teach us that we cannot lay our finger with certainty upon any portion of the brain and locate the reasoning or intellectual faculties. They teach us that we must start anew in our researches with the active cellular elements of the encephalon as a basis to establish the function of each area upon some logical plan. It is, therefore, with much satisfaction that we note in this latest contribution from the pen of that sterling neuropathologist and psychiatrist, Dr. Bevan Lewis, fully one-fourth of the work devoted to the finer anatomy of the brain and one hundred additional pages to the pathology of insanity.

The discussion of the differentiation of the motor from the sensory cortex is treated in the light of comparative anatomy. The results are not positive. Experimental work has taught us that physiological laws applicable to the lower vertebrates do not correspond in man. This differentiation of the cortex noted in the lower animals cannot be clearly defined in the human brain. It is not even definitely settled that the Betz giant-cells of the paracentral lobe are motor. The difference in lamination of the motor and the non-motor cortex is the only positive result obtained from these painstaking investigations.

We find throughout the book the neuron theory accepted and used as a working basis for the anatomical and physiological researches. That the neuron theory, as we formerly understood it, and as it is here presented to us, cannot exist in its entirety is only too evident from the newer facts brought to light by Apáthy, Baker, and Leuhossek, etc. Nor are we to understand that the neuron theory is to be thrown aside in its entirety and forgotten. The anatomical individuality of the nerve element, the unity of the cell, its processes, and the nerve fibre as a nutritional entity will remain as a vital necessity in our discussions of the nervous system and its intimate anatomical relations. There is, therefore, but little objection to the use of the neuron terminology in a work like this, but the student should not be misled, as he is here very apt to be, into believing the neuron theory as accepted fact. That the newer investigations into the cytology of the nerve cell should find no mention in a work otherwise so advanced in its teaching is indeed surprising.

As to the existence of the "scavenger cell," on which the author lays so much stress, and to which he devotes considerable space, there can be no doubt. His theory as to its development and significance will not find so ready an acceptance. The common belief is that it is a reaction of the glia cells to irritative processes, usually inflammatory in type. The author believes it to be a lymph-connective element, different in nature from the glia cell and intimately associated with metabolic changes in the ganglia cell. Its presence in the brain of epileptics and senile dements has long been recognized.

The clinical portion of the work comprises statistics based upon an analysis of 4000 cases of insanity in both sexes treated at the West Riding Asylum. The commonly accepted clinical classification is used, and a thorough psychical analysis carried out in each class of cases. The chapter on general paralysis of the insane is especially noteworthy.

The book is well written, profusely illustrated, and thoroughly indexed. The plates illustrating the cortex in health and disease we have never seen equalled. The neurologist and psychiatrist will find food for thought in every page of this most excellent work. D. J. McC.

LABORATORY WORK IN BACTERIOLOGY. By F. G. NOVY, Sc.D., M.D. Second edition. Ann Arbor: George Wahr, 1899.

ON being asked a few years ago by a young man what he considered the most generally useful discovery to make in medicine, a celebrated French clinician replied: "A method of absolutely diagnosing typhoid fever in its early stage." True, this is a rather rash, spontaneous statement, but it illustrates the importance of diagnosis. When this discovery *was* made it fell in with tuberculosis, influenza, diphtheria, and gonorrhœa under the head of bacteriology.

From the limited aspect of diagnosis, considering only the diseases mentioned, what important proportions bacteriology has assumed! More important than the physical diagnosis of the lungs, which we spend months in studying, and all the bacteriologist asked was six weeks. But his turn is coming at last, as is evident from the appearance of such books as Dr. Novy's. So far we have dealt almost entirely with text-books or manuals, more or less voluminous, arranged according to theoretic divisions; here we have a departure, the arrangement following the lines on which the author has found by actual practice instruction to be the most simple. It does not pretend to be a bacteriological text-book, but a guide to a complete course of laboratory instruction in the best methods and those which the test of time has made the standard. It is compiled for the author's own course of twelve weeks, but is as well adapted for shorter courses. Designed for practical work by a practical teacher, the descriptions are clear and readily intelligible, and experiments to be done with complicated apparatus have been eliminated by illustrations that illustrate. That the work is up to its time is indicated by the fact that it describes in detail the collodium sac method for increasing the virulence of an organism, which we believe has not yet been done by any other American text-book. With such a book on the market, for teachers to make students take down dictation is a direct snub to our much-abused but revengeful old friend—Time.
J. W.

CLINICAL LECTURES ON MENTAL DISEASES. By T. S. CLOUSTON, M.D. (Edin.), F.R.C.P.E. Fifth edition. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co.

IF, as the author tells us in his preface, the fifth edition of a work on insanity should need no further explanation of its existence, an extended review and criticism of the same would likewise seem superfluous and unnecessary. If, however, with each new edition the advancement made in pathology and treatment are recorded and discussed, the fifth edition of the work must necessarily be a very different book from the first.

In this much-quoted work on psychiatry we have presented to us in twenty lectures an experience of forty years among the insane. A subject like psychiatry in the absence of a psychology based on anatomical principles must necessarily resolve itself into a science of classification. Whether this classification be on a purely clinical or a psychological basis is of but little importance. What is of much more importance is that a nomenclature be employed which the student in general will understand. The system now in vogue by every author of a text-book on insanity of using terms which his students alone will understand and use is responsible for the wide-spread lack of interest among physicians and students for this branch of medicine.

The classification which we meet here, and which plays a very small part in the make-up of the book, has as many strong and weak points as we would expect from a mixed classification. The terminology of the various diseased mental states, psychalgia, psycalampsia, psychoparesis, etc., is based on a false psychology, or at least purely theoretical psycho-pathology, and could hardly be expected to receive general recognition. A psychology based on facts and not pure theory is a *sine qua non* for a classification and nomenclature to which the term scientific can be applied. Until such a rational psychology, shorn of its metaphysics, be established, it would seem to us that a purely clinical classification and nomenclature could do less harm and be of more real value to the student than any other.

The value of a series of clinical lectures in printed form, like the clinical lectures themselves, depends not so much on the classification or terminology as on the character, selection, and arrangement of the cases presented, the manner of presentation, and the personality of the clinician. The lectures before us are eminently practical, the clinician never losing sight of the principle that it is his first duty to cure his patient. He has drawn freely on his long experience in giving us a work which, while up to date in all respects, yet in its principle of treatment has few equals in any language. The book is written in a very readable style, and nineteen plates in color and a complete vocabulary enhance the value of the work. D. J. McC.

PROGRESSIVE MEDICINE. A QUARTERLY DIGEST OF ADVANCES, DISCOVERIES, AND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SCIENCES. Edited by HOBART AMORY HARE, M.D. Vol. III. September, 1899. Philadelphia and New York: Lea Brothers & Co.

THE third volume of this most serviceable quarterly is devoted to a review of the contributions made to diseases of the thorax and its viscera, skin, nervous system, and to obstetrics. Dr. William Ewart, of London, has undertaken the section devoted to diseases of the heart, lungs, and bloodvessels. This review of the recent literature of these subjects is one that might properly be expected from his pen—clear, comprehensive, and complete. The pages calling especially for favorable comment are those devoted to pulmonary phthisis and tuberculosis, and to the therapeutics of diseases of the heart.

Diseases of the Skin, divided into disorders of secretions, inflammations, hemorrhages, hypertrophies, atrophies, new growths, parasitic diseases, and neuroses are reviewed by Dr. H. W. Stelwagon. This section is appropriately illustrated by a number of drawings excellently reproduced.

Dr. W. G. Spiller summarizes and presents recent neurological literature in a section of seventy pages. This contribution is particularly valuable, because of the sane comments and critical estimation of many of the articles reviewed.

A very considerable part of Dr. Richard C. Norris' review of the literature of obstetrics is devoted to the surgery of obstetrics and to the puerperium and its complications. *Progressive Medicine* seems to the reviewer to be a trustworthy guide to the medical literature of the immediate time and an adequate presentation of the really important contributions, briefly and understandingly presented. J. C.